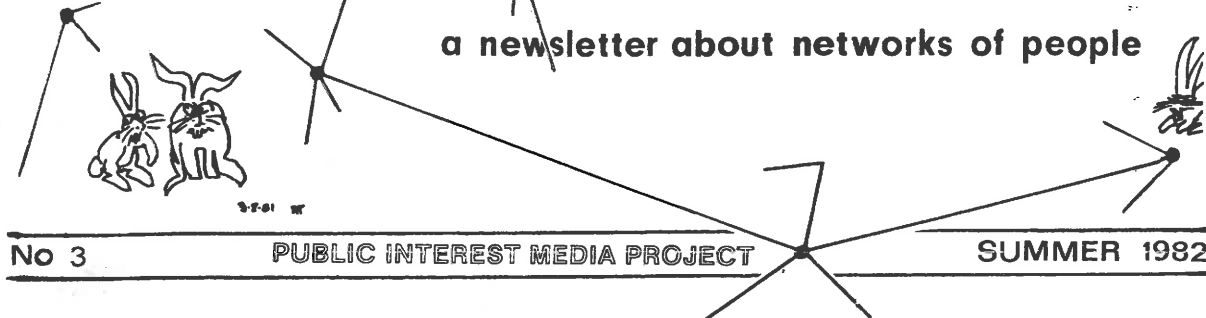


OTHER NETWORKS

a newsletter about networks of people



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Dear friends,

Stanley and I have been smiling a lot lately about how much fun it's been publishing this newsletter. Other Networks provides a much-needed focus for our energies--a creative way to channel our insatiable curiosity about networks into a concrete project. Yet even more satisfying is that other people think the newsletter is a good idea. The milk carton we use for incoming mail has been overflowing with all kinds of mail (which is why we've been slow in responding). Some people have been sending money for subscriptions or for Small World messages. Others have written, "Please send me a sample copy, I read about it in _____." We've been receiving all kinds of newsletters in response to our open offer to exchange subscriptions. And lots of folks have written us to share their thoughts and feelings, or to let us know about the work they've been doing.

As we had hoped ON is acting like a "magnet," attracting energy and interest about all kinds of people networks. We are thrilled that so many people have sent us articles, and that most of the articles in this issue were written by other people--virtually all of whom we didn't know before we started two years ago. As more and more energy goes through the newsletter in terms of correspondence and articles written by others, Other Networks begins to take on an energy of its own--greater than that simply put in by Stanley and me. It feels as though ON is accelerating as a viable and useful medium of exchange for a community of folks interested in people networking.

This exciting time presents excellent opportunities for others to help ON encourage networking. At this point, we'd very much like new people's input and assistance and taking on of responsibility. Specifically, we need advice on financial management, marketing, fundraising, and buying computer capability; and we could use some help answering mail, organizing the files and "office," promoting Small World, and undertaking special projects (as well as producing the newsletter). Whatever your interest, wherever you live, if you'd like to help out "behind the scenes," we can find a way we all feel good about. (And, of course, tax-deductible financial contributions are also welcome.)

Seth

OTHER NETWORKS

Number 3

Summer 1982

This newsletter is published quarterly by PUBLIC INTEREST MEDIA PROJECT, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation.

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Permission to reprint material should be obtained in writing in advance from Other Networks.

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OTHER NETWORKS

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Philadelphia, PA 19123

OTHER NETWORKS

MULTILOGUES

by Paul Angel

Around 1870, a group of hobbyists who all owned their own printing presses, and who had been sending matter that they had written to each other in the mail, decided that it would be simpler to all mail their printing to one person, who would collate it, and mail to each contributor a package containing one copy of each contribution. Thus was born the United Amateur Press Association (UAPA). By the 1920's this and other "apas" had evolved into forums for conversation. H.P. Lovecraft, the horror-fan-

The heart of a multilogue is the comments on other people's contributions to previous issues... this creates long flowing discussions of many different people and viewpoints.

tasy writer, belonged to an apa in the 20's. When science fiction fandom began in the 1930's, fans who were members of the "mundane" apas spread the idea. SF fans took to it so well that South of the Moon (SOTM), the index of apas within science fiction fandom, now lists more than 70 apas.

I have started to use the term "multilogue" (for multiple dialogue) as a more descriptive way of referring to what science fiction fans call apas. What defines a multilogue (ML) is that it is a periodical publication composed solely by its contributors, who all receive collated copies of all the contributions.

The way multilogues work is that every member writes a contribution, which may include material on their personal life, what's been happening to them in the last month or so, book or movie reviews, poetry, or anything else they want. The heart of a ML is the comments on other people's contributions to previous issues, usually specifically addressed to people by name. Because people also comment on other people's comments, this creates long (sometimes over years) flowing discussions with the participation of many different people

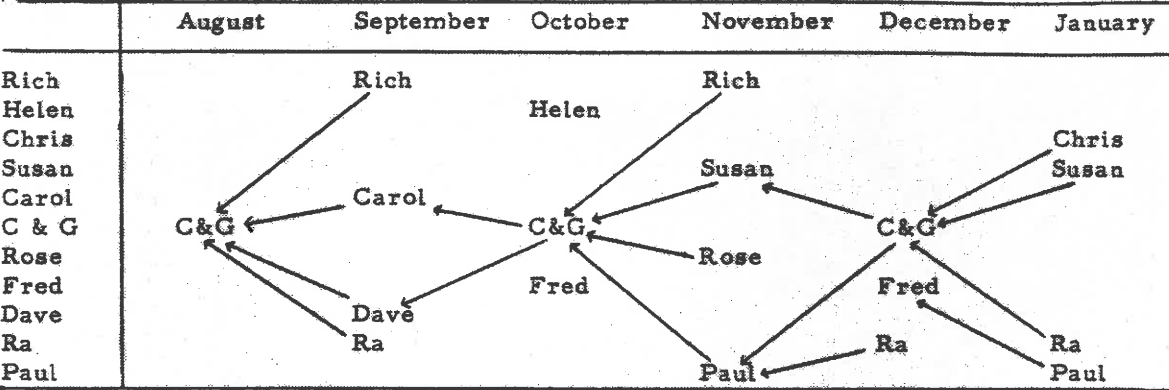
and viewpoints. A friend describes ML's as "webletters."

The subject matter of a ML can be as diverse as the universe. Special interest ML's within science fiction fandom exist for children's fantasy, sex, railroads, anarchism, funny animal cartoons (an all-art ML), paganism, H.P. Lovecraft, popular culture, feminism, film, mysteries, Discordianism, and many more. Many other ML's are for general discussion of everything.

To me, the best thing about ML's is the dialectic (actually multilectic) that can take place within them. Instead of just the classical Hegelian: Thesis--Antithesis--Synthesis which springs from one monolithic historical current (and can result in something just as monolithic), ML's create a juxtaposition of many different viewpoints. The constant flux of interweaving comments and discussions between and among a whole collection of people at the least can make people more tolerant and understanding of diversity; at most it can go beyond synthesis to synergy, in which the whole created is greater than the sum of the parts.

Of course, none of this will happen automatically--but the more conscious, thoughtful interaction there is among participants in a ML, the more likely it is to happen. I believe that ML's can make an important contribution towards creating the decentralized community this society desperately needs to replace its crumbling centralized institutions.

Below is a diagram and an explanation of the flow of comments during a recent (and ongoing) discussion about guns in a ML (D'APA--the Denver Amateur Press Association). Arrows represent replies--comments specifically directed to people by name. Keep in mind that this is just one of many discussions going on in D'APA simultaneously.



In August, Carol & Gerry (C & G), who had just rejoined D'APA, started the discussion by saying that they wanted a gun for self-defense. (Carol & Gerry do their contribution to D'APA together and have very similar views on this issue, so I have treated them as one voice for the purpose of this article.)

In September, Rich, Ra, Dave, and Carol A. all responded, expressing various degrees of concern about the danger of guns, and some doubts about their usefulness. Some mentioned gun control, although Carol A. had doubts about that as well. Ra and Dave thought Carol & Gerry were inconsistent because they had called themselves "pacifists."

In October, Carol & Gerry replied that they were responsible and careful, that they could kill each other just as easily with other objects if they got mad, and that they saw no conflict in pacifists owning guns. Helen thought that meeting violence with violence didn't seem like a very advanced reaction, but that she was unsure about the viability of gun control, and leary of having guns available only to the power structure. Fred said he had a great gun control comment, but couldn't find it.

In November, Rose and Rich both raised the question of individual gun owners' responsibility for helping create or maintain a violent society. Susan asked if they would kill to defend property, and asserted that martial arts were a better solution. Paul pointed out that they were using a confusing definition of "pacifist," and suggested "non-violent" as a better term for people who would only use violence in self-defense.

In December, Carol & Gerry said they wouldn't use a gun to defend property (not believing in property), that martial arts took too much time and effort and were useless against armed attackers, that they didn't beleive in gun control unless every weapon in the world is destroyed, and they accepted Paul's redefinition of themselves as non-violent. Fred found the cartoon he had lost, which showed a hippie saying, "If we have the right to bear arms, then it follows that we have the right to bare feet and the freedom to moon our neighbors." Ra said that Paul's distinction was useful.

In January, Susan said that Carol & Gerry believed in "easy sounding non-solutions" and therefore were part of the 90% of the U. S. population that should not have guns, that martial arts had techniques for dealing with armed attackers, that criminals steal your guns, that the NRA's position was bullshit, and that her friend's brother was shot by another friend's cousin. Chris said that Carol & Gerry's reasoning was the same as the reasoning that leads to nuclear proliferation and asked, if they didn't have the time to learn martial arts, how would they have time to learn how to use guns? Ra said that Carol & Gerry's attitude on wanting to return violence for violence sounded like a typical Christian. And Paul said he liked Fred's cartoon.

The discussion continues.

How to Start a Multilogue

You can easily start your own ML and increase your communication and networking. Find interested and committed people (5 or 10 will do for a start--more will join later if it's interesting). Then decide on these variables:

- Delivery system: Most ML's are mailed, but ML's within local organizations can be collated and distributed at meetings. Doing a ML on a computer network is called computer conferencing.
- Frequency: Monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly are the most common.

--Central Mailer: This is the person who receives, collates, and mails the ML. How responsible they are can make or break a ML. They also have to deal with finances (mostly postage). Nobody wants to do it all the time, so decide whether the position will rotate every issue, at fixed intervals, or when the current person gets tired of doing it.

--Postage costs: If the central mailer is rotated every issue, each person can pay the entire postage cost when they do it. Otherwise, members can send money to the central mailer, who keeps accounts and deducts the postage cost each issue. Or the central mailer could charge a flat fee per issue (or ask for donations).

--Membership: Some ML's let anyone contribute. Most have membership re-

quirements, which may include such things as how often and how much people have to contribute to remail members (one page every other issue is common), etc. Membership may range from 5 to 70 or more--some ML's limit membership to a certain number to facilitate interaction.

--Other rules (if necessary--and how they can be changed): Most ML's include a roster of members, their addresses and phone numbers, and/or a table of contents listing contributions. Some also have an artistic cover. Most ML's are stapled--if they get too big, they can be stapled in sections or sent in loose bundles).

Then DO IT! The only limitation is your imagination.


South of the Moon (SOTM) is an index of apas(ML's). It is available for \$1 (US or Canadian) and free to prisoners, from Denys Howard, Box 2507, Seattle, WA 98111. It's published twice yearly, in January and July. Denys would like to list apas or ML's started outside science fiction fandom. If you start a ML, he asks that you send him: name and address of the central mailer, frequency and copycount, membership limit (if any) and whether there is a waiting list, rules, and any notes of interest to potential members. Please also send this information to Other Networks, and we'll publish it.

Paul Angel started the Denver Amateur Press Association (D'APA) in 1971 and the North American Anarchist Network (NAAN) in 1980, and is currently a contributor to both.

He is a former member of Mixed Company (a feminist apa), and is currently in the process of starting ML's on networking for social transformation, games and social change, and radical buttons. (He makes his living selling radical buttons.) If you have any questions or information about ML's, contact him at 5021 Cedar Ave., Phila., PA 19143; (215) 474-9592.



National Women's Mailing List
A Feminist Communications Network



For the first time, women throughout the nation will be able to voluntarily sign-up to receive mail in a variety of interest areas—from women's culture, sports, politics, and health to mailings about women's spirituality, non-traditional employment, and issues regarding violence against women. The list of interest areas reaches into every field that touches women's lives.

To obtain registration forms or further information contact: The National Women's Mailing List, 1195 Valencia street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Or call (415) 824-6800

ABOUT THE KOOTENAY DIRECTORY

The idea for the Kootenay Directory (also termed the "yellow pages") grew out of an attempt, last summer, to initiate an open general network in the West Kootenays. The people who met in Nelson to discuss networking came from various parts of the region, including the Arrow Lake area, the Slocan Valley, Creston, and Nelson, BC. All of us felt that the Kootenays have become a high-potential and culturally-unique region.

It was apparent, though, that our sense of how to go about starting a network was a bit vague. It was decided that doing a "people's yellow pages", as many urban areas have done over the last decade, might provide us with the necessary focus and do a valuable service for the area. Such a directory would list a broad range of locally-based options: community services, self-employed tradespeople, artists and craftspeople, environmentally-conscious light industry, personal growth and spiritual groups, conservation organizations, women's groups, resource people with knowledge or skills to pass on, and more.

The effort is totally non-profit, and all work involved is being volunteered. The capital needed for initial publicity and materials came from the pockets of members of the planning committee.

The intention is to publish the directory in as large a press run as can be afforded on the basis of listings paid for. We are thus relying entirely on community support at the input level. Printing facilities have been offered to us, at no cost, by Horst Bohme of Discovery Train, a new age education enterprise in Salmon Arm.

Making the directory free to the reader/user is an attempt to circulate it as widely as possible, and have it be used by many people in

the region. The idea is that the support of regional enterprises and services be encouraged, and that people in the region who would like to get in touch with persons doing something of interest to them can do so more easily.

In what way this directory may evolve into the hoped-for open network is impossible to say at this point; but those of us working on the project are pleased about the type of listings received so far at the Nelson collection point.

Persons wanting to know something about how we've carried out the project can write to me at: Joel Russ, R.R. #1, Winlaw, BC, VOG 2J0, Canada.

First map of a new world.

This is the most comprehensive guide ever published to alternate possibilities today, including where to find 1,500 key organizations. "Essential."—R. Buckminster Fuller. "Brilliant."—Ram Dass. "Heartily recommended."—*New Age*. \$15.95 Dolphin paperback; \$29.95 hardcover.

The First Report and Directory

NETWORKING

People Connecting with People,
Linking Ideas and Resources

Health and the Life Cycle,
Communities and Cooperatives,
Ecology and Energy,
Politics and Economics,
Education and Communications,
Personal and Spiritual Growth,
Global and Futures Networks

Jessica Lipnack and Jeffrey Stamps
DOUBLEDAY

A NATIONAL HOME BUSINESS NETWORK

BY JIM GUNN

Browsing in a laundromat magazine (FAMILY CIRCLE, 7-1-81) can lead to information about networks. An article, "Making Money", written by Gerri Hirshey, included a section about two women, Marion Behr and Wendy Lazar, who developed a national home-business network.

Marion participated on a panel discussing women-run businesses and responded positively to the frustration of women in the audience who wanted to work, but who felt trapped by the problems they had to overcome. Together with her friend, Wendy, she explored the problems, contacted others who represented over 100 home-based occupations, and formed the National Alliance of Homebased Businesswomen.

Local chapters provide mutual support groups. Informal meetings may resemble kaffee klatsches, but the information exchanged produces serious business advice. As part of their aim to introduce a positive picture of the home-based businesswoman and to create a practical network for exchanging information, Marion and Wendy published a guide and directory, *WOMEN WORKING HOME*, written by and for women involved in many different endeavors.

Write for further information about the Alliance and the directory, *WOMEN WORKING HOME*, to National Alliance of Homebased Businesswomen, P.O. 95, Norwood, N.J. 07648.

BARTER & TRADE

A "home-business" in the Philadelphia area is the *BARTER & TRADE* newsletter which is published quarterly to list people's needs & offerings. \$25/yr. *BARTER & TRADE* 1909 Green St. Phila. PA 19130 or CALL: 765-6032.

THE BARTER PROJECT

BY S. Horwitz

In recent years there has been a dramatic increase in the number of neighborhood barter systems. These barter networks help people share services and skills with one another, often using some kind of "credit" accounting system so that indirect exchanges are made possible. (For instance, when Member A provides a service for Member B, Member A's account is credited with an agreed upon number of credits and Member B's account is debited the same amount. At some later time Member A may "collect" on her accumulated credits by receiving a service from Member C, whose account is then appropriately credited, and so on.) In this way, members can best meet their personal needs both in terms of receiving and providing skills and services.

For more than two years, an effort to support these grassroots barter networks has taken place through THE BARTER PROJECT, a program of Volunteer, the National Center for Citizen Involvement. The Barter Project supports barter networks throughout the country in various ways--mostly via *Exchange Networks*, a quarterly newsletter which "includes profiles of barter networks in operation, lists resource materials on all types of self-help and cooperative activity, includes feature articles on varied self-help efforts operating successfully at the community level, and responds to readers' questions."

For more information and/or a sample copy of *Exchange Networks* contact The Barter Project, c/o Volunteer, 1111 N. 19th St., Suite 500, Arlington, VA 22209; (703) 276-0542.

HOW TO START A SKILLS EXCHANGE

An information manual available for \$3 From: *SKILLSBANK* 340 S. Pioneer St., Ashland, OR 97520

Changing Institutions

BY ANN WEISER

REPRINTED FROM THE CREATIVE WOMAN

Networking is part of a revolutionary change taking place in the world. Not only are institutions changing, but the very form of institutions is changing, and the way in which each of us can affect, modify, participate in and transform the institutions of our world is undergoing profound change.

In the old world, each of us had little control over most of the institutions that affected us. Control of the old type of institution was from the top down, and most of us were not at the top. Governments, businesses, universities and families, all were controlled by a kind of top-to-bottom power flow, where those above controlled those below; and only a few were above, many below.

The new world has institutions of an entirely different shape, with power and control flowing up as well as down, so that it will eventually cease to make sense to talk of "up" or "down" at all.

Also in the last ten years, alternative institutions have sprung into being, with structures very different from the old authoritarian model. Food co-ops, community projects, learning exchanges, worker-owned factories, all exhibit the new form, with decisions being made and carried out, not by the group and for the group, but by individuals aware of their cooperative connections with other individuals.

We can begin to call these new institutions "networks". A network is a group of people connected by lines of two-way communication and organized around a particular function or purpose,* without any one person or subgroup exercising central control. There is no geographical restriction on networks; members of the same network

may be separated widely in space. This kind of freedom, freedom from the bondage of proximity, is made possible by the inventions of the electronics age: the two-way radio, the communications satellite...and above all, the ubiquitous telephone.

"The telephone system becomes both the means and the metaphor for the multi-sourced, multi-directional flow of communication and power within the new form of institution."

With surprisingly few exceptions, it is possible to dial any telephone from any other telephone. (A Chicago newspaper carried a story about a man who decided to call the American embassy in Tehran during the hostage crisis and talk to one of the hostages. After a six-hour wait while the overseas operator arranged for the call, he got through, and had a short conversation with a hostage who said they were unharmed -- a fact which the rest of the country was desperately trying to find out.)

The telephone system becomes both the means and the metaphor for the multi-sourced, multi-directional flow of communication and power within the new form of institution. The connection between any two telephones is a potential link in one or more networks, and becomes an actual link when the people at either end know each other's phone numbers and enough about each other to make connection possible. The connection may be used frequently or rarely, but once it is formed it remains a network link.

NETWORKING

The activity of forming and maintaining these links is called networking. Each person may be a part of many networks. Compared to the old system, where just a few connections were possible, the number of potential connections is mind-boggling. Even more profound is the difference in the qual-

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

An Experiment

by JIM GUNN

When a computer faire opened in San Francisco recently, I decided to try an experiment, even if I am not thrilled with machines or technology. I arranged to sit in a booth with a sign in front of me:

INTERESTED IN NETWORKS ?

SEE ME --- JIM GUNN

I didn't know what would happen when I took my seat, but I soon found that individuals did stop to talk to me. Some came out of curiosity: "Just what are networks, anyway?" Some came with technical questions about computer network machinery and turned away with a snort when I told them that my primary concern was the communication of information.

Then the others stepped up, people with a rousing interest in networks, with the same concern that I have for exploring the field, and a real need to discover how they can get more information about it.

I quickly learned to lay my position out for everyone--that I had put the sign up because of my own personal interest; that I was involved in a research project, re-

INSTITUTIONS (CONTINUED)

ity of the connections. Instead of creating relationships which are defined by one person's control over the other, they connect people as co-operators, opening up a potentially infinite flow of creativity, ideas and pleasure.

In doing networking, in dealing with the participatory forms of the new age, one is taking charge of one's own life without dominating or exercising power over others' lives. If the web of our functional connections makes up our world, then when we do networking -- when we call people who interest us and exchange information or make connections for mutual activity -- we are doing much more than merely "calling people on the telephone." We are essentially creating our own world.

sulting from my curiosity, studying the scope and variety of networks; and that I had found a tremendous growing field that ranged from the computer processing of information in the Information Utilities to open networks, and even beyond computers to interest groups which use mail, telephone, radio and personal contact.

Then, in turn, I asked if they had experience in networks, and that is where the conversation got interesting. One young lady had started a network to help others get food supplies, and she wanted more information about the concept itself. A mature lady had torn up her roots on the east coast to come to the west coast and needed a network to help herself get settled and find employment. Two gentlemen were at the faire to buy equipment so that they could start an information network in Oregon and requested all the details that I could give them about resources and contact people.

I was continually asked if I had a mailing list, how could they get on it, and when a young lady volunteered to mail copies of the list to all the individuals on it, I realized that my experiment supplied the nucleus of a network --- A network of people interested in networks.

What a stimulating, satisfying and positive experience my weekend effort gave me. I don't know what the end result of the network will be; it grew spontaneously in a crowded and noisy environment, and practical communication practices must be established, as well as clarifying the needed financial aspects. I have, however, a heady feeling of growth, and I visualize change and development in my chosen field.

* * * * *

--Jim Gunn is retired and is interested in forming a network to help the people in his area. Look for his other article about homebased business women in this issue. To contact him, write: James H. Gunn, P.O. Box 283, Inverness, CA 94937.

*Not all networks are organized around a particular, stated function or purpose. For instance, most people don't consciously consider their informal networks of relatives and friends to be "networks" at all.
--Ed.

COMPUTERIZED COMMUNICATION S. Pokras

Whenever a new technology is developed a certain amount of confusion and controversy is to be expected. The "computer revolution" is no exception. Just about the only statement about computers that is universally accepted is that they and their associated communications technology are here to stay--and will have a profound effect on the ways people communicate. Computers can affect communications in many ways. If computers are seen as authoritarian and impersonal, we think this is largely because that is how they have been applied--as tools for authoritarian and impersonal institutions. Computers are also being used in humanistic ways--for personal expression and grassroots empowerment--through computerized networking. What follows are a handful of useful resources for people interested in using computers for helping people communicate with one another. Computers can be tools for enhancing the qualities of our interpersonal relationships, for helping us communicate with one another in human, personal, and creative ways. Here are some hopeful directions.

THE NEXT WHOLE EARTH CATALOG

One way to get started in understanding the computer network revolution is by following Art Kleiner's articles in the Co-Evolution Quarterly and the Whole Earth Catalog. On page 534 of the Next Whole Earth Catalog (NWECC), Art covers "Life On the Computer Network Frontier" from signing on to holding forth discourse via the various available "computer utilities" such as The Source and EIES (see below), revealing many of the characteristics of this new way of communicating. He writes, "Since people aren't there physically, things like shyness, physical disabilities, race, religion, sex and body language are invisible." And "since communication is easier, network members keep in touch with four or five times as many people as they would otherwise." As is usual in the Whole Earth Catalog, a number of specific network resources are described.

THE NETWORK NATION

One resource described in NWECC is the book The Network Nation which is a textbook designed by its authors, Starr Roxanne Hiltz and Murray Turoff, to be a complete review and "preview" of the field of computer assisted human communication. Turoff is the designer of the Electronic Information Exchange System (EIES--pronounced "eyes"--now in use by a wide range of scientists and other professionals including legislators from various states) and Hiltz is a sociologist using EIES to study the reactions of EIES users to this new form of communication. The preface is especially useful in understanding the scope of the material covered in the book and serves well as an overview of the book as a whole, which is quite large and worthy of a semester's study at a university. If you are interested in communications from almost any serious point of view, The Network Nation is important reading. The chapter on Structured Communication (making group decisions) is a particular case in point. Here the authors discuss the Delphi method of predicting the future, a method which can be applied to group processes of many kinds, including developing consensus in a community.

There is a distinction between a network of computer users doing some of their networking by computer, and a "computer network"...

JOURNAL OF COMMUNITY COMMUNICATIONS

Speaking about communities, there is to our knowledge only one publication exclusively concerned with community communications issues. The Journal of Community Communications (JCC) developed from the work on the "Community Memory" project (see below), which placed message terminals in public places in the 1970's. Now published on an irregular basis, this superbly written journal's most recent offering contains six articles on computers ranging from "Kids on Chips" to "Hardcore Software," putting computer technology under the kind of scrutiny that the regular media consistently shuns: thoughtful criticism. There really are many issues to be worked out if we are to use computers benevolently. Remember the "peaceful atom?" The JCC is available from Village Design, P.O. Box 996, Berkeley, CA 94701. The cost is \$9.00 for four issues.

THE COMMUNITY MEMORY PROJECT

Also available from Village Design are reprints of an article entitled "The Community Memory Project: Description and Current Status" by Sandy Emerson and first published in the JCC (Vol. 3, No. 1, Fall 1978). Community Memory used a central computer and located terminals in public places, such as a library, allowing passers-by and people from the local community to enter a wide variety of messages, and also to scan the already-written messages. "There were no restrictions on what kinds of messages could be put in, how they were indexed, or who could retrieve the information. . . . The expected fear of machines was not much present. In fact, most people said, 'It's about time.' . . . By designing a means by which people could manage and maintain their own information needs, the Community Memory Project sought to present an alternative to the way that people currently get information in this society."

THE COMPUTERIST'S DIRECTORY

The Computerist's Directory is a networking tool for people interested in computers and for people with terminals who would like to contact others directly via the computer utilities. The first twenty pages or so of this unique publication is the "white pages" section. It lists by state all of the publication's subscribers and how to contact them by mail, phone and computer utility. Each person writes up to a 500 character self-description for this non-commercial section.

The "yellow pages" section is a classified ad directory for computers, software, accessories, stores, consultants, services, literature, and computer clubs. The directory calls itself "the national phone book of computing" and "focuses on the needs of personal and small business computer users." A year's subscription is \$10.00 for two issues and includes a 25 word listing in the white pages. The longer (500 character) white pages listing is \$5 extra. Write to The Computerist's Directory, P.O. Box 405, Forestville, CA 95436.

PACKET COMMUNICATION

There is a distinction between a network of computer users doing some of their networking by computer, and a "computer network," which is a group of machines functioning together or interlinked over some distances.

The November 1978 issue of the Proceedings of the IEEE (vol 66 no 11) is a special issue on packet communication networks... and packets are what makes computer networks economically feasible. You can find out why a packet is like a letter being carried by the post office and how this method helps insure that a network will function even when many of its parts fail.

There are some good articles of descriptive and historical value and even discussions of political and economic issues.

MANY-TO-MANY COMMUNICATIONS

Chandler Harrison Stevens is involved with developing computerized techniques of many-to-many communications at MIT's Center for Information Systems Research. He has written a 60-page paper describing some of his work with state legislators for whom he has implemented computerized "inquiry networking" systems. An inquiry network allows any member of a group to generate an inquiry and only those interested in a particular subject need participate in the ensuing discussion.

The paper details how the various systems work and presents examples drawn from actual use. The intended audience for the paper is the business community and the paper addresses ways in which hierarchical structures will be altered by continued development of many-to-many communication.

The paper is divided into three sections. First, two introductory chapters give definitions and describe where many-to-many fits in a conceptual spectrum of communications from words to numbers. The second section is about techniques. Besides inquiry networking, the paper describes "dialog balloting" ("polling not to elect nor to sample, but to facilitate participation") and interactive graphics ("a (visual) language to interpret many-to-many communication"). The third section describes the effects on society and the changes in individual attitudes which Dr. Stevens feels will accompany the proliferation of many-to-many systems.

If you are interested in many-to-many communications write to Dr. Stevens, c/o the Center for Information Systems Research, MIT, 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02139.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY FOR THE COMMUNITY

Information and Communication Technology for the Community, by Steve Johnson, is a 118-page report written for the Center for Urban Education in Portland, Oregon. The report describes many of the new electronic forms of communication providing readers with a working knowledge of the terminology of communications technology.

Writing from his experience as a user of the computer conferencing system "EIES" (see page 10), Steve describes the many facets of this incredible communication tool along with his perceptions of its usefulness. Many forms of communication are compared and contrasted to "conferencing" by computer and a clear picture is developed of how the EIES system works and what its potential seems to be. An EIES "diary" chronicles some of the interactions Steve had with people on EIES, including how he felt uneasy when a discussion seemed to end abruptly as he entered into it....

Thirty-two pages are devoted to a resource directory/bibliography which mentions books, papers, and organizations dealing with information & communications technology and community communications resources.

Copies are \$8 from Steve Johnson
c/o RAIN Magazine, 2270 NW Irving
Portland, OR 97210

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RAIN Journal of Appropriate Technology, is publishing a series of articles about the uses of communications technology by community and grass root organizations. RAIN magazine: \$15/ 10 issues is available from the above address.

Peter & Trudy Johnson-Lenz are professional network consultants, programmers and social scientists. They assist community services by designing systems for achieving better communications. Much of their work is done via the EIES network (see p.10).

We are pleased to announce the availability of their new networking program: MIST. For more info about MIST contact their distributor: NEW ERA TECHNOLOGIES  
2025 Eye St. N.W. Suite 922, Washington, DC 20006 (202) 887-5440

M I S T Version 2.0  
MICROCOMPUTER INFORMATION SUPPORT TOOLS  
The Networker's Electronic Toolchest

MIST is the microcomputer software system that transforms your personal computer into a powerful workstation. Within a single, integrated framework, MIST has features for:

- word processing (entering and editing text) and document formatting (margins, paragraphing, right-justification, pagination, centering text, boldface, underlining, and more)
- database management and information retrieval, including text (for descriptions, abstracts, etc.) and true keyword/key phrase retrieval of information; features for mailing lists, personalized form letters, directories, tailored reports and more
- intelligent terminal to other computers for sending and receiving electronic mail, searching databases, transmitting files, recording material from remote computers, etc.; includes connect routines for automatically connecting to remote systems via networks like Telenet and Tymnet or over phone lines, all with single commands
- remote access to your personal computer from any terminal or microcomputer for remote word processing, document formatting, data entry, searching your databases, or using your microcomputer for a local electronic message center

MIST provides an integrated set of tools for handling information. All features are right at your fingertips. You can move from word processing to sending a file to a remote computer to searching a local database to allowing someone to call up your system remotely — all without having to load another program. You can even change disks within MIST as needed.

MIST commands are easy-to-understand English words. Extensive on-line explanations are readily available to help you learn the system. A fully indexed user's guide is also included.

MIST is a communications-oriented system. Its features allow you to write, edit, organize, store, retrieve, and exchange textual information of all kinds. It does not include accounting, inventory, or financial applications, although such software packages can be purchased to complement the capacities of MIST.

MIST is designed to run on any personal computer or microcomputer that uses the CP/M operating system. MIST is currently available for the Vector Graphic line of microcomputers, using the PMMI MM-103 auto-dial/auto-answer modem. Versions for other brands will follow.

THE SPIRAL NEWS NETWORK

The Society for the Protection of Individual Rights and Liberties uses a unique method of communication. Each person in the SPIRAL network is encouraged to publish their own newsletter to at least 12 people, using their own discrimination as to what to include. The recipients are encouraged to attempt to verify or discredit the information thus exchanged and when satisfied with the "general reliability" of the SPIRAL information, to begin the spiral again by starting their own newsletter.

Some SPIRAL information begins with a trance-state "entity" referred to as the "Cosmic Awareness" which is treated with a great deal of respect as an information source. Another source is the Dr. Better Audio Letter "intelligence report" which offers to take the listener "behind closed doors". The SPIRAL subject matter includes UFO's, how the U.S. banking system is being destroyed, the mark of the Beast from Revelations and the "secret missiles" & weapons in the U.S. armory. While this writer cannot verify all that is written in these newsletters, the fact that there is a group of people acting in their own self interest to help inform others of truths in which they believe, using an open-forum system in which all the participants can have some control over what gets into the system, makes this a network.

Sample copies are available (usually for \$1.50) from:

- \*Justin Moody, Spiral News Network, Box 2799, Hendersonville, NC 28793;
- \*Spiral Mobius, c/o Audrey Patrick, 347 N. Union St., Kennett Square, PA 19348;
- \*Jim Fortune, The Speaker, 7762 W. Somerset Rd., Appleton, NY 14008;
- \*Spiral Report, P.O. Box 80323, Lincoln, NB 68501; and/or
- \*Russell Scott, 78 Constance St., Toronto, Ontario, M6R 1S6 CANADA.

THE NETWORKER'S PACKAGE

Johnny Light's Networker's Package is a guide which describes how to begin a network office.

Calling upon his years of experience as a community organizer in Detroit, Johnny answers the questions "what is the purpose of such an office, where to get the information, how to organize it and how to use it." Specific instructions are given for obtaining, sorting, filing, storing and retrieving information on cards and in paper files. The methods described are straightforward and inexpensive. Examples of forms are provided for questionnaires and lists of additional sources of ideas and methods are provided.

The package opens with an inspirational essay on the potential that networking has for the improvement of civilization.

When asked what he thought of civilization, Mahatma Gandhi replied: "Civilization- it would be a good idea." -quotes Johnny.

The Networker's Package is \$6 from  
GUILD COMMUNICATIONS II  
P.O. Box 1017 [SEE PAGE 25]  
Redway, CA 95560

~~~~~  
+++++

MANY OF THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRITTEN
FOR OR HAVE BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT IN
THIS NEWSLETTER WILL BE ATTENDING THE
WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY'S GENERAL AS-
SEMBLY JULY 18-22, IN WASHINGTON, DC

COMMUNICATIONS and the FUTURE

LOOK FOR THE LINKAGE NETWORKING
ROOM TO FIND US NETWORKERS.

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WORLD FUTURE SOCIETY

4916 St. Elmo Avenue • Bethesda, MD 20814-5089

As the concept and practice of networking grows in popularity, more and more people are identifying themselves as "networkers". Many of these people would like to earn a living by networking -- and they are having a difficult time of it. In this article, network consultant Roger Pritchard addresses two challenging issues faced by such networkers.

NETWORK: TWO BASIC DIMENSIONS

© 1982 ROGER PRITCHARD

Enthusiasm for networking has developed on a wide scale in the last two years. There's been lots of talk, much less action, and rather little analysis of what networking is and why it is difficult to make it work. It is especially difficult for "networkers" to support themselves financially by offering networking services.

I think that two basic dimensions of networking that I have learned over the past nine years as a networker and consultant to networks help explain the financial/organizational difficulties for networkers in networking.

The first dimension I learned in discussions with my colleague Michael Phillips. He argues that our society understands and agrees to pay, primarily, for products; secondarily, for service and lastly, for information. So the economics of information exchange is very difficult. In fact, you have continually to convert information into products or services in order to get people to pay for them. People won't pay for the information directly. They will pay for a book, magazine, newsletter or other product in which the information can be found. They will pay, with more difficulty, for information-gathering services and consultants, though with these too it is essential for the service-offerer to develop a newsletter or similar product through which to circulate the information associated with the service offered. Offering to connect people, to merely put them in touch with each other, can only be paid for when the user's access is restricted and they have to pay for access,

as a member or participant. The danger is that once the initial connections are made the members will no longer need the connecting service, and this is an additional reason for offering products to keep people involved and willing to offer financial support.

The second basic dimension of networking that militates against financial support for networking services is that the development of mutual support, exchange-of-information, morale-boosting, connecting networks is really the development of community. When you develop your community - of interest, or whatever - it is inappropriate to be charging for doing so. The basic processes involved in community-building are the development of trust, the connecting of the previously isolated into networks through which each can support and be supported, and the sharing of difficulties and experiences and proposals for making the community stronger. A networker is really, from this perspective, a community organizer. Communities do not pay community organisers until such time as they agree to do so and have the money to do so. Networks have to be organised and natural and must develop organising skills and structures from within, on the whole. Outsiders who offer networking services are unlikely to make a living doing this. Since communities develop best on the basis of enthusiastic and voluntary work, networkers who put themselves forward and hope to earn a living are going against the basic processes needed in community building.

* * * *

Roger Pritchard is a financial consultant to New Age small businesses and to individuals who want to save, invest and spend in alignment with New Age values.

He was educated at Oxford and Brandeis Universities, worked on several university-based research projects, was manager of Pacifica station KPFA, and has consulted with networkers as well as run one himself for several years.

Address: 1514 McGee Street, Berkeley CA 94703 -- (415) 527-5604

SMALL WORLD is a file of personal messages. Each message is kept on a 4 x 6" card, numbered in the order received, and indexed according to the title or key words supplied by the author. When new entries are received, we compare the new and old messages to see if there is a match. If there is, we notify both parties by post card.

In addition to remaining in an active file for a year, SMALL WORLD messages are also printed once in Other Networks. The following pages contain the most recent messages.

See the enclosed yellow form for details on how to enter messages. If it is missing, write to us for another.

This is the SMALL WORLD system. If you are interested in starting a similar file, we will trade all of our file for all of yours and make copies of new messages as they come in and send them to you, if you will do the same for us.

FEELING A DRAFT ?

The draft information project can help. We provide a balanced perspective on registration and the military, and we can advise you about your options. The Draft Information Project is dedicated to community outreach, with an emphasis on poor and minority groups. We don't preach, we just tell the facts. You must make your own decision.

DRAFT COUNSELOR'S ASSOCIATION

Are you a trained counsellor? Would you like to learn about draft counseling? The Draft Information Project is organizing a Draft Counselor's Association. We train volunteers and hold various events for interested individuals. Don't wait until it's too late. For information or counseling call our HOTLINE: 724-0185.

DRAFT INFORMATION PROJECT
815 S. 48th St. Phila PA 19143.

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Inspiration and talent do help, but there's a craft that can be taught. I've had a variety of songs recorded on six major labels, and have performed in New York City clubs. . . and I love to teach. Vocal students must be in NYC, but songwriters can correspond with me by cassette or tape.

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If you own your own business or are a professional, Women's Referral Service is an exciting way to network with women from many different fields. We also provide a free referral service to the public, so you get more clients. We have quarterly meetings and a bimonthly newsletter.
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RALPH H. WALKER, EdD The Barn -
A Centre of Light RD 4, Box 293
Sussex, NJ 07461 (201) 875-4710

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Humanistic Psychologist with M.A. in counseling is available for week- and dream workshops in your area. 24 hour, one-to-one dream intensives, weekly groups, and individual sessions are on-going in Lynchburg. Rates reasonable. Write or call for rates and scheduling.
ELLYN HARTZLER COWELS 838 Rivermont Ave. Lynchburg, VA 24504 (804) 528-2816

DANCING FREE

One Friday each month an open form dance event is held at the Trinity Lutheran Church Gym, 5300 Germantown Ave., Phila. (8-10 pm, at corn. of Queen Lane) "A participatory event-- a growing concept in fun and self-expression." Free of alcohol and smoke, refreshments served. \$3 donation. Call for dates and more info.
DIANA FELBER (215) 848-0616
BILL HENGST (215) 438-9438
DONA DALTON (215) 843-9396

FREE REFERRALS TO WOMEN

PROFESSIONALS

Are you looking for a qualified woman therapist, attorney, bookkeeper or consultant? Call WOMEN'S REFERRAL SERVICE at (in Philly) 564-5970 for a free referral. Our members represent many different businesses and professions.

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I am a professional carpenter, licensed and insured, available for work in Phila. and Delaware counties. Low rates.
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GENERAL TRAINING PROGRAM;
DISARMAMENT

The General Training Collective of Movement for a New Society will sponsor two general training programs (GTP's) this summer--June 5-20 and August 14-29, in Philadelphia. Areas of training include group process, liberation/oppression issues, feminism, and non-violence theory and skills. Special focus for the June GTP will be on disarmament and will include going to New York for demonstrations on June 12 and 14. Contact: JUDITH ERNST 803 S. 49th Street Phila., PA 19143 (215) 729-1928

THE METAPHYSICS OF MAGICK

Free 12-level Metaphysics Course available. Serious students only. COLLEGE OF EGYPTIAN MYSTERIES Box 205 Ft. Thomas, AZ 85536 (601)485-2608

COMPUTER-ASSISTED NETWORKING

I will assist in finding and implementing hardware & software combinations to reach your goals. Those desiring to increase the interplay between creative energies using artificial intelligence and our own, please reply. SASE. SCOTT WILMORE 382 Imperial Way #5 Daly City, CA 94015 (415)885-3587

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I'm offering training in Massage - especially self-massage - as a means of nurturing one's self more fully. Focuses on body energy, bodywork, activities that are helpful in terms of exercise, nutrition, communicating needs to others. BILL FARKAS 121 W. Abbottsford Ave. Phila., Pa. 19144 (215) 844-8621

How we got your address

To illuminate the "lines of connection" between you and us (and connections are what networks are all about) most mailing labels have a code indicating where that part of the mailing list came from. An explanation of this code appears below. If you would like more specific information about how we got your name and address, please feel free to contact us.

ya	Yassa Alibe	se	Solar Interest Exchange
a	F.U.N. Conference, Spring '81	NR	Network Research
x	Xeropost	J	Joshua
L	Linkage	sf	San Francisco People's Yellow Pages
R	Ruth Kuetemeyer	sw	Steve Washam
sh	Seth Horwitz	J&J	Networking: The First Report & Directory
sp	Stan Pokras	Ex	Exchange subscription
ccd	Computerists Directory		
rn	Rainbow Nation		

PLEASE NOTE: If you are on our mailing list and are not a subscriber, consider this issue a sample copy. If you are interested in subscribing, please see our subscription form on page 27. If you can't afford a subscription, write to us and ask to be kept on our mailing list.

NETWORK NOTES

UNSCHOOLERS NETWORK 2 Smith St. Farmingdale, NJ 07727 (201) 938-2473

This is the name of both a newsletter and a network of folks in New Jersey and elsewhere who believe that children should not be forced to go to school. Most of the participants and readers are parents who have removed their children from the formal school system and are teaching them at home. Edited by Nancy Plent, the newsletter is full of useful information, a calendar, resources, and ideas for "unschoolers." And as with Growing Without Schooling (See ON, Fall '81), much of the material is written by readers. The network assists families undertaking the responsibilities of home schooling in several ways, including having a monthly open house/library day, nurturing the formation of support groups, sponsoring a skills/interests exchange, and collecting and distributing various relevant materials.

CREATIVE LIFE SHARING 615 1/2 14th Street Huntington Beach, CA 92648 (714) 536-7317

"C.L.S. is 'a growth-oriented eclectic mutual support network, which simply means a group of people who support each other's expansion in the celebration of life.'" C.L.S. offers a "playground of encouragement" primarily for residents of Orange County, CA, who want to attend or offer classes, workshops, lectures, and play-oriented events. Their philosophy (available upon request) derives from themes of eclecticism, openness, support, and love. Inquiries should include a self-addressed, stamped envelope, if possible.

THE LOVING BROTHERHOOD P.O. Box 556 Sussex, NJ 07461 (201) 875-4710

TLB is a 4-year-old international network composed primarily of men of all sexual orientations who create a space for one another where it is safe to love and be loved. Monthly gatherings are held in founder Ralph Walker's New Jersey home; and a monthly newsletter is published, including listing of members' names, addresses, and other personal information they care to share. Members all agree to these seven rules: Answer all mail; be slow to say no; honor and respect oneself; treat others with love and respect; be truthful and honest; keep all agreements; and act ethically

MEDIA NETWORK 208 West 13th St. New York, NY 10011 (212) 620--877

"Media Network is a national alliance of social activists and media activists who believe that media is one of the most powerful tools of our time. We have joined together to share information and skills to expand the use of media for organizing and education." Media Network helps provide connections between people who produce media, people who want access to media, activist groups, and useful resources. They publish an occasional newsletter, also called Media Network.

CCA TRAVELLERS NETWORK 2546 West Course Dr. Annapolis, MD 21401 (301) 261-8664

Cooperative Communities of America (CCA) helps organize intentional, incorporated communities. They also operate a traveller's network through which travellers can contact local persons in 36 states and three foreign countries willing to provide helpful information, accommodations for a few nights, or other assistance. CCA also publishes a quarterly newsletter.

OTHER NETWORKS

come of age. I have had much practical experience in utilizing networks for community organizing work, particularly in urban areas (ie Detroit). I worked there for years inspiring a community network for self-reliance that has blossomed into quite a cross-section of interesting bedfellows. Wholistic health and the auto workers. General Motors and new age spirituality. Coalitions of government, religious and community groups.

Your newsletter is a step in the right direction. I have laid the conceptual groundwork for a similar "Networking Newsletter," which can connect and unite the thousands of networkers and communications people working separately in thousands of groups, organizations or simply on their own.

I have been anxiously awaiting the release of Jessica and Jeffrey's new book on networking . . . to utilize their research and experience as a further solidifying source of inspiration and direction. They and I have been corresponding about the book for years. [SEE PAGE 6]

I have also done considerable research about networks as well as communities, non-profit groups, the various movements--about 20,000 viable names and addresses of sources and potential subscribers to such a networking newsletter. With an attractive design, an enticing and useful text, and a personal and inspiring process, we can perform a well needed service.

Now, we mustn't for a moment pretend that networks or newsletters are a panacea for the worlds and peoples ills. Person-to-person touch is by far the most effective communications. But mass media and information networking has its function--to inspire and inform the seekers and the self-reliant.

Thus, I introduce myself and the "network" I represent. . . .

[SEE PAGE 14] Johnny Light
Guild Communications II
P.O. Box 1017
Redway, CA 95560

ters Letters Set

Dear Seth:

In regards to your proposal, of exchanging newsletters, it's fine with us. The people here are interested in this kind of information, Other Networks, and we are looking forward to receiving future publications.

I have enclosed a flyer on the Participatory Research group, along with three flyers on our media productions. I'm sorry I don't have much to offer at the moment, but I'm sure this will give you some understanding of participatory research. . . .

Sharon Lavallee
Participatory Research Group
International Council for Adult Education
Toronto

Dear Stanley,

Greetings again. I just got an idea I am throwing out to some people and thought you might be interested. You see through the correspondences and cities I have visited, there are a number of contacts I have accumulated all over the country. The thought came to me, we could get each of these networkers (local) to send one-two paragraph description of what is happening in their city, we could have a very interesting newsletter. Plus, it would give people an idea of this tremendous process to help create world unity. If I could find someone who has the resources to put out such a newsletter, I could supply the contacts. Plus, we could ask each of these contacts if they know any other networkers in other cities. Thus through the process of networking, we could locate key people. Maybe we could also make a list of all the different directories available to people. . . . These are just some of the ideas I am thinking about. . . .

Joshua
9161 Kilpatrick
Skokie, IL 60076

We believe that since the Media Project is a non-profit organization, our financial records should be open to anyone interested--especially you, our readers. These figures cover our expenses and income from SMALL WORLD and Other Networks, including all the gathering and processing of information associated with these projects since the Fall 1981 issue of Other Networks.

Expenses
Income:

Gifts	\$320.00
Subscriptions to O.N.	277.00
Debt	118.60
SMALL WORLD users	50.90
TOTAL	\$766.50

Expenses:

Printing & Photocopying	\$239.88
Postage & Shipping	208.84
Research	148.35
Office Supplies	91.02
Telephone	47.50
Bank Account Charges	23.20

TOTAL \$758.79

Balance in bank: Fall 1981 \$30.31
Present \$38.02

We are encouraged to see that the subscriptions and SMALL WORLD users since the last issue have covered the printing costs of this issue. We hope soon to be able to cover more of our costs. All work so far has been volunteered.

--Julie K. Mills, Treas.

OTHER NETWORKS
subscription form

I wish to subscribe to OTHER NETWORKS.

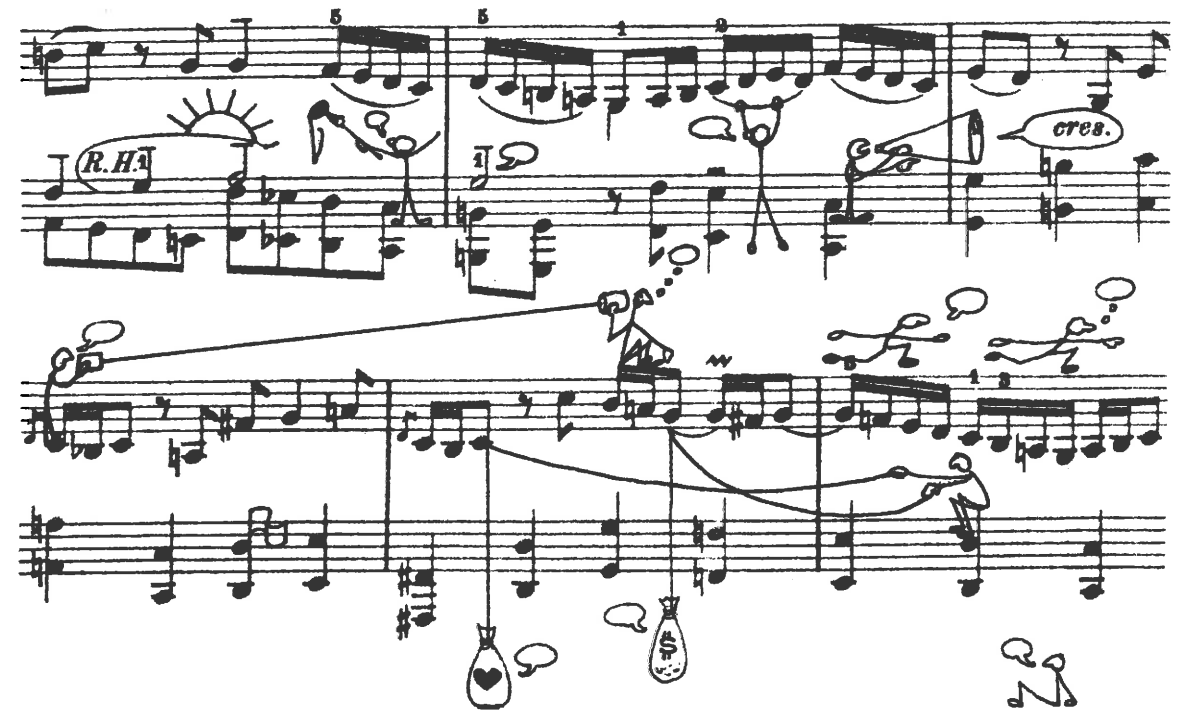
In return for a one year (4 issue) subscription,

- (check one)
- ☐ I am enclosing \$15...(\$5 for those "living lightly")
 - ☐ I agree to write a short article on networks or networking. (enclosed)
 - ☐ I (we) will exchange my (our) newsletter for OTHER NETWORKS. (enclosed is a recent issue)

name _____
organization _____
address _____
_____ zip _____
phone () _____

make checks payable to:
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